TRENDS

5/25/88

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 19, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 14 totaled 19.4 billion ton-miles, up 7.6 percent from the 18.0 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 19 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 356.8 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended May 14 totaled 432,891, up 6.4 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and up 0.2 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 1.8 percent in the East, and 11.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 6,199 cars (23.2 percent), metallic ores increased by 5,650 cars (37.2 percent) and coal loadings were up by 3,358 cars (2.9 percent). Ten of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended May 7 totaled 110,471 trailers and/or containers, up 5.8 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 18 weeks of the year was 1,936,023 trailers and/or containers, up 5.3 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/14/88:

	Loadings in Week ended May 14, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,955	I	6,199	23.2	I	1,155	3.6
Other farm products	3,470	D	527	13.2	D	18	0.5
Metallic ores	20,841	I	5,650	37.2	I	261	1.3
Coal	118,561	I	3,358	2.9	I	191	0.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,243	I	2,862	17.5	I	1,137	6.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,968	D	513	4.5	I	275	2.6
Grain mill products	10,697	D	342	3.1	D	167	1.5
Food and kindred products	11,051	I	160	1.5	D	124	1.1
Primary forest products	9,909	D	1,013	9.3	I	44	0.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,898	D	561	6.6	I	414	5.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,220	I	58	0.5	D	212	1.7
Chemicals and allied products	27,182	I	1,178	4.5	D	1,327	4.7
Petroleum products	5,173	I	183	3.7	D	27	0.5
Stone, clay and glass products	11,777	I	307	2.7	I	398	3.5
Coke	6,011	I	1,008	20.1	I	269	4.7
Metals and products	10,092	I	858	9.3	D	994	9.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,338	I	1,589	7.7	D	248	1.1
Waste and scrap materials	9,895	I	1,164	13.3	I	582	6.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,437	D	237	8.9	D	115	5.1
All other carloads	80,173	I	4,468	5.9	D	689	0.9
Total Cars Loaded	432,891	I	25,849	6.4	I	805	0.2
Corresponding week of 1987	407,042						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (19 weeks)	7,960,603	7,472,387	I 6.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
8 weeks ended May 7	337.4	313.9	I 7.5
Week ended May 14	19.4	18.0	I 7.6
19 Weeks cumulative	356.8	331.9	I 7.5

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